

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-20 HA-05 /094 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5338

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS MBABANE 2617

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF, WZ

SUBJECT: SWAZILAND GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL'S DEATH IN SOUTH
AFRICAN POLICE CUSTODY

REF: MBABANE 2616

HEREWITH GOS STATEMENT ISSUED JUNE 30 ON OCCASION OF
JUNE 27 DEATH IN SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE CUSTODY OF SWAZILAND
EDUCATION MINISTRY OFFICIAL SAMUEL SHABANGU:
QUOTE THE NEWS OF THE DEATH OF MR. S. M. SHABANGU, A HIGHLY
TRUSTED AND RESPECTED PUBLIC OFFICER, AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES
SURROUNDING HIS DEATH, WERE RECEIVED BY THE GOVERNMENT
AND INDEED BY THE WHOLE OF THE POPULACE OF SWAZILAND WITH
FEELINGS OF GREATH DISTRESS AND HORROR.
THE GOVERNMENT EXTENDS ITS DEEP SYMPATHY TO THE MEMBERS
OF THE BEREAVED FAMILY ON THE GREAT LOSS THEY
HAVE SUSTAINED.
THE GOVERNMENT IS PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN MAKING THE
FULLEST POSSIBLE ENQUIRIES INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH
LED TO THE DEATH OF MR. SHABANGU.

IT HAS BEEN ADVISED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA
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THAT A POST MORTEM EXAMINATION HAS REVEALED THAT THE
CAUSE OF DEATH WAS "LOBER PNEUMONIA" I.E. INFLAMMATION
OF THE LUNGS.

EVEN HOWEVER ACCEPTING THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE
SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, THE GOVERNMENT OF SWAZILAND IS
SATISFIED THAT THE TRAGEDY WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED BUT

FOR THE GROSS NEGLECT ON THE PART OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN
OFFICIALS WHO HANDLED THE MATTER OF MR. SHABANGU'S DETENTION AND
HIS TRANSPORTATION FROM BADPLAAS TO CAROLINE TO FICKSBURG.
THE GOVERNMENT HAS SATISFIED ITSELF THAT ON THE 20TH JUNE
WHEN MR. SHABANGU WAS ARRESTED AT THE OSHOEK BORDER HE
WAS IN NORMAL HEALTH AND IT APPEARS INCONCEIVABLE THAT
WITHIN A MATTER OF A FEW DAYS HIS HEALTH SHOULD HAVE
SO DETERIORATED AS TO HAVE CAUSED HIS SUDDEN COLLAPSE AND
IMMEDIATE DEATH WITHOUT THE DECLINE IN HIS STATE OF
HEALTH HAVING BEEN NOTICED BY THE PERSONS IN CHARGE OF HIM.

THE GOVERNMENT IS IN TOUCH WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF
SOUTH AFRICA AND IS DEMANDING FROM IT THAT A CLOSE AND
IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION BE CONDUCTED, AT WHICH THE
GOVERNMENT OF SWAZILAND SHOULD BE REPRESENTED, INTO ALL
THE FACTORS WHICH LED TO MR. SHABANGU'S DEATH. UNQUOTE
WACHOB

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